



**Date:** August 26, 2014

**Question:**

A request was received by a Council candidate to meet with city staff seeking guidance and input on economic development opportunities specific to maximizing all the available commercial property in a specific district that has become blighted and a destination for crime.

**Answer:**

City staff cannot meet with Council candidates on policy or platform ideas and/or to provide guidance and input. This could be perceived as political activity by staff which is not permitted per City policy.

The City's Economic Development Department's Redevelopment Division is currently working to establish a robust support program to nurture and grow commercial areas throughout the City. The development of a flexible set of tools is underway.

Additional Economic Development Department services and programs can be found here:

<http://austintexas.gov/departments/economic-development>